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LEARNING

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CURRENT SUBJECT: AGRICULTURE

THROUGH TOUCH

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Children learn by touching things around them.

They learn that some things are soft and some are hard. Some feel cool and others warm. Some things are rough and some are smooth. Some are light and some are heavy. If children know about this, it is easier for them to learn

to read. It will help them understand what the teacher is talking about at school.

You can find things around your house that will teach children these ideas. Children need your help. You need to talk to children and play some games with them to teach these ideas.

GAMES TO PLAY

GUESSING GAME



Take a paper sack. Write your child's name on it. Writing his name lets a child feel that "this is mine." It gives him the idea of writing. It helps him learn to write his name.

Put some things in the sack. Put in a smooth rock, a rough rock, a piece of wood, a piece of egg carton, some pieces of cloth. Put

in seeds or pods of plants, nuts, a piece of cotton, a feather, empty match folder, or anything else you find. Be sure the things you put in the sack are not sharp or dangerous.

Close the top of the sack. Leave a hole just big enough for a child's hand.

Play a game. Have your youngster reach in and find something soft—or hard. Tell him to find something smooth or rough. Ask him what he has found. Teach him to say "I found something hard" or "I found"

You can turn this into a guessing game. Have the child reach in and find something and then say, "I found something soft—what is it?" Or "I found something hard—what is it?" Then you guess what it is.

This is a good game for two or three children to play.

A BOX OF TOUCH TREASURES

Get a small cardboard box and make a touch treasure box for each child. Let them keep "treasures" in it. You may want to paste different things inside the box, like pieces of sandpaper, scraps of wool, pieces of fur, sticks, or small toy animals.

Help him look for things to put in his treasure chest. He may want to put in some rocks, pieces of cloth, scraps of paper, shiny lids, or other things. Be sure these things are not sharp or dangerous.

Let each child have his own box. Don't let the other children bother it.

